

Enjoy this issue as you explore principles and practices that support the living landscape.

March 2021



Advocating for ecological landscape practices through education, collaboration, and outreach.

## From The Editor

Connections and Nurture. Those are the words that I keep coming back to after attending the ELA Annual Conference & Eco-Market Place. Even at a virtual conference; the ELA energy in the rooms was palpable. **Thank You** to our sponsors, volunteers, and QiQoChat who made this unique conference venue a remarkably insightful experience. As ELA continues finding ways to connect during COVID, we will resume the popular **Free Webinar Series: Wednesday Walks in the Garden** on March 31.



In this issue, we consider the management of water in the landscape by exploring the problems of an often-flooded girls' softball field and considering very specific landscape challenges-of building a private race track in New Hampshire. We learn from a wetland scientist how to best deal with invasive species. We are introducing a *Nurture Your Hard-Working* body series with this month's focus on the practice of yoga and grounding yourself in nature. And lastly, one author graciously translated her original article from May 2020 into Spanish. Be Well, Be Inspired. *GRH*



### Wetland Design and Implementation

by Michael DeRosa

Compelling and sustaining landscapes are informed by the surrounding environment. They are created by incorporating structural and species diversity into planting schemes to push minimalist restoration efforts to efficient results. **Read the article.**



### Private Racetrack Nestled in the White Mountains

by Mike Everhart

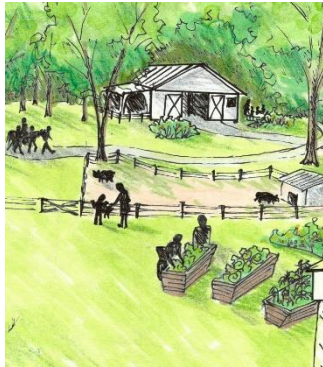
In 2013, Club Motorsports began constructing a private racetrack at the southern edge of the New Hampshire White Mountains. They designed the track with the idea in mind of a "country club" for car enthusiasts. **Read the article.**



## Merging Nature-Based Solutions and Recreational Areas

by Leah Wallner

The Town of Wellesley makes updates to improve a girls' softball field, mitigate stormwater runoff and create a habitat for wildlife. The field was bordered by a busy street, an aqueduct, a neighborhood, and mature trees which provided many landscape challenges. [Read the article.](#)



## Huertos Accesibles Para Todos

by Rachel Lindsay

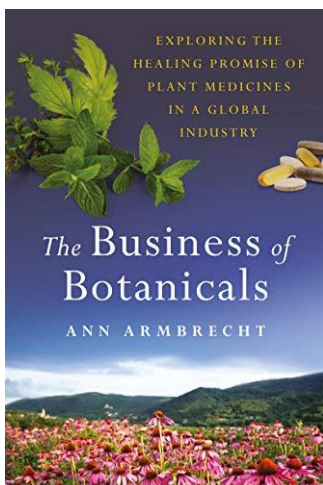
Un paisaje accesible debe ser fácil de acceder físicamente y también ofrecer experiencias variadas a todos los visitantes. Los diseñadores ecológicos llevan el concepto de diseño universal aún más lejos y consideran cómo el paisaje, especialmente los jardines públicos y participativos, pueden beneficiar no solo a personas de todas las capacidades, sino también a la vida silvestre, los polinizadores, los microorganismos del suelo y las cuencas hidrográficas. [Leer el Artículo.](#)



## The Human Body Landscape - An Eagle's Point of View

by Nicole Grant

Gardeners and Landscapers spend hours stewarding the land but often times at the expense of their own bodies. Take time every day to appreciate your hard-working body by practicing some deep breathing and easy yoga stretches to better align your spine and recharge your mind. [Read the article.](#)



## Book Review:

### The Business of Botanicals

Reviewed by Angela Tanner

In *The Business of Botanicals* (Chelsea Green Publishing, 2021), author and anthropologist Ann Armbricht embark on a quest to understand and reveal the processes of bringing botanical products from farms to the consumer. [Read the Review.](#)

## Highlighting Our Company Members

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The graphic features a background of green foliage with purple flowers and a monarch butterfly. Text is overlaid on the image.

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### ELA News

#### Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors!

ELA's 2021 Conference & Eco-Marketplace held virtually on March 3 & 4 attracted speakers and attendees from across the country and international as well. C.West in the U.K. noted, "The intimacy of the person to person presentation is very much missed, but the fact that we can attend meetings from around the world without ramping up our air miles (and time) is a great pay-off." Given the ease of participating in this year's conference, we were encouraged to host a great diversity of speakers. The response of participants is well-summed up by N. Malarkey, OH who

shared, "I personally learned a great deal and made some wonderful connections. I appreciated the range of speakers that I was able to listen to and look forward to catching up with the others on the recordings." We appreciate the work of volunteers, presenters, sponsors, exhibitors, QiQoChat tech hosts, and attendees who contributed their time and enthusiasm to ensure a successful event.

We offer special thanks to our Conference Sponsors:

~ **Planters' Choice Nurseries** ~ **Read Custom Soils** ~ **Ernst Seeds** ~  
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~ **Redbud Native Plant Nursery** ~ **Babikow** ~ **The Conway School**

### **Wednesday Garden Walks Begin March 31**

The Ecological Landscape Alliance (ELA) announces a return of *Wednesday Walks in the Garden*. For 12 weeks beginning on March 31st, ELA will again offer free webinar presentations as respite to gardeners across the country and beyond who continue to struggle with pandemic stress. Presentations will cover a wide range of gardening topics from the mysteries of soil microbes to foliage-framed focal points. This series will inform, delight, and inspire gardeners and designers of all backgrounds. We hope that you'll join our Wednesday Walks in the Garden for a nature-filled diversion as we introduce new plants, new practices, and inspiration to get outdoors – a sanctuary for healing.

### **Announcing 2021 Native Plant Photo Contest**

Start Sorting Your Photos! April 1 will see the start of ELA's fourth Spotlight on Natives Photo Contest. Entries will be accepted until May 31 at 5:00pm. Share your photos of native plants, whether individual specimen or in garden settings. First Prize Winners receive a one-year ELA Professional Membership. Photographers receiving Honorable Recognition will earn \$50 credit toward purchases at the ELA Bookstore. Winners will be announced in June. **Find all the details here.**

### **Virtual Coffee March 17**

ELA's Virtual Volunteer Coffee continues on Wednesday, March 17, 12:30-1:00. Call in to tell us your idea for a program, or about the great speaker you heard or book you read. To get the call-in number email [Maureen@ecolandscaping.org](mailto:Maureen@ecolandscaping.org).

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## Gleanings

### Xerces Society Days of Action

The Xerces Society is running a national campaign encouraging consumers to question retail and wholesale nurseries about their use of pesticides on the plants they sell. Consumers have a

fantastic amount of power to influence what nurseries sell. Xerces society created a webinar, brochures for both consumers and nurseries, and helpful hints on speaking with your local nurseries about their practices. Read more at [Buying Bee-Safe Plants](#), [Offering Bee-Safe Plants: A Guide for Nurseries](#), and [Xerces YouTube](#).

### **Everyday Nature Task**

Nature can be a powerful antidote to all the uncertainty and disruptions present at this moment in time. Children especially can find comfort in activities that mirror the everyday routines of school or daycare and find enjoyment in being outside every day. Read more at [Arnold Arboretum Harvard](#).

### **Can We Stabilize Global Temperatures?**

The world may be barreling towards climate disaster, but rapidly eliminating planet-heating emissions means global temperatures could stabilize within just a couple of decades, scientists say. Read more at [The Guardian](#).

### **Forcing Winter Stems**

Though spring is in the air for much of the country, it is still too early to get out and work in the garden. But you can enjoy bringing nature inside. Join Rowan Payne-Meyer for this delightful video on forcing winter stems. Read more here [The Scott Arboretum](#).

### **Has Offshore Wind Finally Arrived on the U.S, East Coast?**

After years of false starts, offshore wind is poised to take off along the East Coast. Commitments by states to purchase renewable power, support from the Biden administration, and billions in new investment contribute to this fledgling industry's emergence. Read more at [Yale Environment 360](#).

### **New England Trees Storing More Carbon?**

According to a new study that synthesizes hundreds of thousands of carbon observations collected over the last quarter-century at the Harvard Forest Ecological Research site, climate change has increased the productivity of forest. Read more at [The Harvard Gazette](#).

### **U.S. Sea-Level Report Cards**

The annual update of their sea-level "report cards" by researchers at William & Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science adds further evidence of an accelerating rate of sea-level rise at nearly all tidal stations along the U.S. coastline. Read more at [William & Mary News](#).

### **Bees of the Eastern Forest**

People associate bees with open habitats, plenty of flowers, and ample sunshine, but scientists know bees were around when the eastern states mainly were forest. What has happened to those species? Read more at [Xerces Society](#).

### **Amanda Gorman's "Earthrise" Video**

Amanda Gorman, 2021 Inaugural Poet, recites her four-minute poem for the Climate Change Reality project entitled "24 Hours of Reality." Watch the video at [Green Newton](#).

### **Invasives Insects and Disease Are Killing Our Forest**

The U.S. wasn't ready for the pandemic. And it isn't prepared for the next contagion to strike our woodlands. It's not just humans; trees also suffer plagues. Read More at [The New York Times](#).

### **Measuring Moisture in Soil from Space**

Soil moisture regulates plant growth, affecting wildlife and ecosystems but it's time consuming to measure soil moisture by hand. NASA's SMAP (Soil Moisture Active Passive) satellite was launched on January 31, 2015. Its job is to monitor the water content in soils around the globe. Read more at [The Cary Institute](#).

### **Plastics Polluting Our Oceans**

The amount of plastic choking the planet, most notably the world's oceans, is unfathomable. Our oceans, even our own bodies, are drowning in plastic. Change is possible, but we are at a tipping point. Read more at [ecoRI News](#).

### **Photo Essay: Birds-of-Paradise**

More than 40 species of birds-of-paradise live in New Guinea's swaths of the Indo-Pacific rainforest region, one of the largest intact tropical forested areas on Earth. This slide show explores the landscapes, forests, birds, mammals, and insects of New Guinea – the most species-rich island on Earth. Read more at [Cornell Lab](#).

### **Can Vacant Farmlands Fulfill Worlds Biofuel Needs?**

Spread across the planet are millions of hectares of abandoned cropland, lying fallow and unused. But suppose we used this empty land to grow biofuel crops. In that case, we could meet a significant share of our green energy needs going into the future – while simultaneously limiting the land-guzzling impacts of biofuels that give them a bad name. Read more at [Anthropocene Magazine](#).

### **The Bahamas: A Flamingos Success Story**

In the 1950s, in the Bahamas' southernmost islands, scientists discovered only a scant hundred flamingos remained of the last breeding colonies of American Flamingos. Conservation efforts began and have preserved nearly half of Great Iguana Island as a national park. Today the flamingo population tops 80,000 birds. Read more at [Audubon Magazine](#).

## **Events to Note**

### **Events to Note (listings indicate local time unless otherwise noted)**

At this time, many events are still being held online; check with organizations to confirm the most up-to-date information.

#### **March**

March 16 - [Choosing Mineral and Biological Amendments](#); 7:00-8:30pm ET.

March 16 - [Tree Identification for Beginners](#); 7:00-8:00pm ET.

March 17 - [The Pollinator Garden](#); 7:00-8:30pm ET.

March 18 - [Indigenous Fisheries Science](#); 11:00-12:00pm ET.

March 18 - [Foundational Factors for Sustainable Turf](#); 4:00-5:00pm ET.

March 19 - [Native Meadows: Let's Get Real](#); 1:00-2:30pm ET.

March 19-20 - **Land Conservation Conference: Building a Stronger Land Movement through Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**; online both days.  
 March 20 - **Gardening Symposium**; 9:00am-3:15pm.  
 March 20 - **MA Bee Annual Spring Conference**; 8:00am-12:00pm ET.  
 March 23 - **Close Encounters with Nature: Native Design in the Residential Landscape**; 1:00-2:30pm ET.  
 March 23 - **Building Soil in the Garden**; 7:00-8:30pm ET.  
 March 24-25 - **Spring Kickoff for Landscapers**; 8:30am-12:00pm ET.  
 March 25 - **Pharmaceuticals in Our Rivers and Streams**; 7:00-8:00pm ET.  
 March 25 - **Ecological Seed Restoration for Pollinator Health**; 7:00pm-8:30pm ET.  
 March 27- **Tower Hill Spring Family Hikes**; 1:30-3:00pm ET.  
 March 29 **ELA Class**→**Expanding Your Business with Green Infrastructure: Five Tools to Incorporate this Season**; 12:00-2:30pm ET.  
 March 30 - **Perennial Gardens and Edible Hedges**; 7:00pm-8:30pm ET.  
 March 31 **ELA Webinar**→**Foliage & Focal Points: Ideas for Budgets and Gardens of All Sizes**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.

**April**

April 1 - **Establishing Trees in the Urban Landscape**; 4:00-5:00pm ET.  
 April 1&8 **ELA Class**→**Navigating Public Design, Part 1**; 1:00-3:00pm ET.  
 April 6 - **Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants**; 7:00-8:30pm ET.  
 April 7 **ELA Webinar**→**Proper Planting Practices: Are We Landscaping in a Deficit Model?** 12:00-1:00pm ET.  
 April 13 - **Happy Healthy Chickens**; 7:00-8:30pm ET.  
 April 14 **ELA Webinar**→**Maximizing Space in the Garden: Creating More of a Good Thing**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.  
 April 21 **ELA Webinar**→**Creating Community with Our Insect Neighbors**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.  
 April 27, May 4 **ELA Class**→**Eco-Restorative Garden Design**; Framingham, MA; 2:00-4:00pm.  
 April 28 **ELA Webinar**→**Going Underground: Unearthing the Role of Soil Organisms in Plant Health**; 12:00-1:00pm ET.  
 April 28 - **New Naturalist: Lessons from Wild Plant Communities**; 7:00-8:30pm ET.  
 April 30-May 3 - **City Nature Challenge: Park By Park Competition**; register by February 5.

**Anytime**

**URI Cooperative Extension Learn at Home Webinar Series**

Submit events by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.



**Permaculture Contractor Company Manager**, Park City, Utah

**Red Ant Works, Inc. - Park City, Utah**

Founder stepping away from daily operations after 20 years and seeks company manager.

Permaculture landscape contracting company at 7k' elevation - winters off.

Must have three (3) years in a related field, PDC (permaculture design certificate) and a sense of humor. Salaried position with benefits and paid summer holidays & vacation.

For complete job description and additional requirements:

[redant@xmission.com](mailto:redant@xmission.com)



**Stone Barns Center**, Pocantico Hills, NY, seeks a Groundskeeper as a member of the Stone Barns Center Ecosystems Team, reporting directly to the Ecosystems Director. The work of this team encompasses Stone Barns Center's landscaping, gardening, compost and fertility cycles, beekeeping/pollination work, ecological monitoring, and forestry program. In coordination with the Ecosystems Director, the Groundskeeper will play an essential role in caring for the diverse, ecologically managed grounds and landscape. Additionally, this role will support the livestock, compost and crops operations as needed. A desire to steward land for beauty, ecological health, and resilience is essential. With the focus on R&D at Stone Barns Center, there are many opportunities for collaborative and exploratory projects. [Click here for more information.](#)

**Nadia Malarkey Garden Design, LLC** seeks Landcare Team Member/Seasonal. Nadia Malarkey Garden Design is a professional regenerative landscape design company based in Yellow Springs, Ohio. NMGD employs a dynamic systems approach to landcare that enhances biodiversity and biomass while enriching clients' experience of the beauties of the changing seasons. We are looking for a candidate who would like to join our team of passionate plant and environmental enthusiasts. If you appreciate the dual role that a bio-diverse landscape plays in creating lovely and healthy ecosystems and if you would enjoy being a part of a hardworking team that shares a love of learning and working outdoors, then we might just be a good fit. Preferred, minimum of two years of experience in one or more of these fields: Gardening, horticulture, landscape management, regenerative/organic farming, environmental science, ecology. For more information, [view full job description here.](#)

**BlueFlax Design, LLC**, a design/build firm located in Harwich, Massachusetts (on Cape Cod) specializing in a blend of landscape and ecological restoration design and implementation, seeks a Design Director to collaborate with and direct our design team in the development of ecologically based landscape design and master planning plans, and coastal and inland wetland mitigation/restoration and land management projects. [To find out more and apply, click here.](#)

#### **Lawn Care Technician/Plant Health Care Technician**

Mayer Tree Service/Finest Green Services in Essex, MA, is looking for an experienced Lawn Care/Plant Health Care Technician with a valid driver's license and core pesticide license. We require a high school diploma, or equivalent GED, good physical condition, excellent verbal, written, good customer service skills, and the ability to work independently. Salary commensurate with experience. **More Information: David Anderson, [danderson@mayer-tree.com](mailto:danderson@mayer-tree.com), 978-880-0803**

#### **Turtle Habitat Management – Mendon, MA**

I'm looking for an environmentally sensitive landscaper who can brush hog a turtle management area this year before April 15. The area is subject to NHESP Turtle Habitat Management, and we have

a specific map of the conservation land that requires mowing every 7 years. The location is off Gaskill Street in Mendon MA. The land is owned by the town, and the conservation commission is responsible for the mowing, and has money set aside for the project. Metacomet Land Trust will be the grantee of the conservation restriction, and is available to answer contractor questions.

For more information, contact: Patrice Murphy, [patrice.murphy@metacometlandtrust.org](mailto:patrice.murphy@metacometlandtrust.org) or 508-561-6838.

**NatureWorks Landscape Services** is looking for a Landscape Designer to join our staff. At NatureWorks, you get a trifecta – passionate, collaborative teammates; botanic-garden-quality properties; and industry-busting compensation. Plus, we're highly organized, structured, and thoughtful. The Landscape Design position provides high level garden design across our portfolio of high-end residential clients. [Read full job description and apply here.](#)

**Wild Seed Project** is searching for a new executive director to succeed founder Heather McCargo and lead the organization beyond the successful startup phase! A comprehensive set of skills and abilities is required to lead Wild Seed Project during this exciting period of organizational development. The new executive director will partner with the board in strategic planning, oversee all aspects of the project's operations, drive development and serve as the primary spokesperson. Read the full [job description here.](#)

**Native Plant Trust** seeks a full-time Nursery Assistant to work as part of a small team that collects seed for and propagates approximately 50,000 New England native plants per year for retail sale, ecological restoration, and display at Garden in the Woods, its botanic garden in Framingham, MA. The position is based at Nasami Farm, located in Whately, MA, which is a 75-acre property with a Native Plant Center, eight greenhouses, and related support structures. Maintenance of the grounds and facilities is shared by all nursery staff. Read the [full job description here.](#)

**Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy** seeks several individuals to join our talented and passionate Horticulture team doing ground-breaking ecological Horticulture. This person will contribute to the care of The Greenway landscape, helping to provide a safe, clean park with beautiful horticulture for the public to enjoy. The Greenway Conservancy is an award-winning national leader in sustainable landscape care, with organic compost tea brewing, beehives, and more.

#### **Seasonal Horticulturist**

The primary role of the Irrigation Technician is to monitor and maintain The Greenway's irrigation systems. This includes troubleshooting and repairing problems, scheduling based on weather and plant conditions, and assuring that the system is working properly and sustainably. Additionally, small-scale design and installation projects, along with the record-keeping tasks are included in this role. The candidate will report to the Horticulture Field Manager and work closely with the Ecological Health Care

Horticulturist and the Superintendent of Horticulture. **Find more information at [RoseKennedyGreenway.org](https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org).**

#### **Horticulture Intern**

The primary role of the Horticulture Intern is to assist with all responsibilities involved with the Horticultural maintenance and care of The Greenway Parks, including participation in and assistance with Horticultural volunteer events. This requires basic understanding of, desire to learn about and the implementation of best Horticultural practices for a wide variety of herbaceous and woody plant material in an urban park setting. As an employee they will also represent the Conservancy in a positive and professional manner with the public. **Find more information at**

**[RoseKennedyGreenway.org](https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org).**

#### **Seasonal Horticulturist/Irrigation Technician**

Working under the direction of the Horticulture Field Manager, the Seasonal Horticulturist will assist with all of the responsibilities involved with the Horticultural maintenance and care of The Greenway's garden areas. This requires the ability to recognize and perform best Horticultural practices for a wide variety of herbaceous and woody plant material in an urban park setting. **Find more**

**information at [RoseKennedyGreenway.org](https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org).**

#### **Refugia Design/Build - Seeking Landscape Architect**

Refugia is an ecological landscape design/build and stewardship firm, with our design office located in Narberth PA, serving the Greater Philadelphia Area and Jersey Shore. Annual exhibitors and award-winners at PHS's Philadelphia Flower Show, Refugia is known for an immersive, naturalistic design aesthetic, meadow expertise and their innovative Greenway Network mapping native habitats. Currently seeking a licenced Landscape Architect to support design projects and project management at varied scales, throughout multiple phases of built environment/landscape design work. Projects may include new landscape designs, additions and alterations of existing designs, and restorations. We strongly encourage applicants from all backgrounds. Start date February/March 2021.

Visit **[www.refugiadesign.com/recruit](https://www.refugiadesign.com/recruit)** for details.



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Whether you are located in the area of our upcoming events or in some distant landscape, you are invited to participate in ELA collaborations and discussions by joining the Ecological Landscape Alliance discussion group on LinkedIn. The discussion group is open to both ELA members and non-members from around the world and participation is growing each week. Through these discussions you can share information, get answers to landscape problems, and learn new perspectives on challenging ecological issues. Joining LinkedIn is free and it is easy to join. [Join the ELA LinkedIn Discussion](#). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter and welcome your comments at [ela.info@comcast.net](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net).  
Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor

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